Possibility of transforming Agriculture into Machine industry—demonstration of.

467. **Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.**—Will the Government be pleased to state how they are demonstrating in the State Farms the possibility of transforming Agriculture into a Machine Industry?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The two labouring sawing machines the use of which has been demonstrated in the farms are the oil engine and pump and the Ramachandra water lift for irrigation purposes. The use of the tractors for ploughing is found unsuitable to the local system of cultivation and hence its use is not advocated. The use of the improved and up-to-date agricultural implements such as cultivators, harrows, scufflers, handfork digging for the showels, and iron plough is demonstrated. The use of mill for extracting juice from sugarcane is also demonstrated.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—May I know when the experiment with tractors was tried here?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—It was not tried. There was a proposal, it was given up.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Has it been found of great use in the Coimbatore District?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I do not know.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Will the Government kindly inquire, and then say?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Yes.

Statistics of land holdings.

468. **Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.**—Will the Government be pleased to place on the table the graded statistics on land-holdings, promised by them during the discussion on Supplementary grants in the last meeting?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—A list of pattadars grouped according to the amount of land revenue assessment paid by them, is appended. (*Appendix I.*)

Improving the Thazhakat Bazaar road in Kattur.

469. **Mr. P. S. Kesavan Nambudiri.**—Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are aware that

1. (a) the Thazakat Bazaar road in Kattur village is a very important one having heavy traffic;

(b) there is a first class market at the termination of this road in the Thazhakat Bazaar and this is the only road which leads to that market;

(c) there is frequent bus traffic along this road;

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2. whether the P. W. D. has recommended for widening and improving this road; if so, when;

3. whether the Government have taken any and if so what steps in that matter?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—1. (a) It would not be correct to classify it as a very important road.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

2. Yes; in 1107.

3. An estimate is being prepared. The work will be included in the next budget if funds permit.

Clearing the Public Tank in Kattur.

470. Mr. P. S. Kesavan Nambudiri.—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether the public tank near the Registry Office and High School at Kattur is now in a filthy condition;

(b) when was this tank cleared last;

(c) whether this is not the only public tank used for bathing by all classes of people in Kattur village?

Mr. P. V. Raphael.—(a) No.

(b) In 1103.

(c) Yes. There are however other water facilities also close by.

Increase of child marriages in the State.

471. Mr. P. S. Kesavan Nambudiri.—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether their attention has been drawn to the statement in the Census Report (Cochin) at page 97 (part 1); "The figures for married females in the age-groups 5—15 and for married males in the group 15—20 are perceptibly higher than in 1921 so that it will appear that the age of marriage has actually been *lowered* during the past decade";

(b) whether they are aware that marriages between the above ages are injurious to the health and morals of the people;

(c) whether they propose to adopt any effective measure to prevent the continuation of this social evil?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—(a) Yes.

(b) This is a matter of opinion.

(c) No.

Mr. P. S. Kesavan Nambudiri.—(b). Do they know whether there is a law passed in British India prohibiting Child marriages?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—Yes.

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